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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZAHID (Morocco)
(Vice-Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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In the absence of Mr. Dinu (Romania), Mr. Zahid (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 145: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA (continued) (A/47/607 and A/47/674; A/C.5/47/L.3)

1. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) said that the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) (A/C.5/47/L.3) had been agreed upon in the informal consultations and followed the standard format for resolutions concerning the financing of peace-keeping operations. All the participants in the informal consultations deserved commendation for their constructive and flexible approach. By that display of solidarity with Somalia, the Committee was making a modest contribution to easing the suffering of its people. He suggested that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

2. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that his delegation would like the Acting Controller to clarify the implications of paragraphs 1, 4 and 5. The question of the duration of the mandate of UNOSOM was a matter for the Security Council, but it should be settled quickly for the reasons given by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) in its report (A/47/674). Perhaps the Acting Controller could indicate what liaison would take place between the Secretariat and the Security Council to expedite the resolution of the issue.

3. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that the Secretariat had noted the recommendation made in paragraph 7 of the ACABQ report, which was endorsed in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, and the different views expressed during formal and informal meetings concerning the duration of the UNOSOM mandate. While fully respecting the prerogatives of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Secretariat would, when transmitting the resolution to the competent authorities for the preparation of the report which the Secretary-General intended to submit to the Security Council, draw attention to those views and to the way in which paragraphs 4 and 5 should be interpreted by the Secretariat.

4. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.3 was adopted without a vote.

5. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution on the following understanding. First, as pointed out by the Advisory Committee, the question of the duration of the mandate should be resolved as soon as possible. In that respect, his delegation was satisfied with the explanation given by the Acting Controller. Second, the authorization given to the Secretary-General in paragraph 9 to enter into commitments for the period beyond 30 April 1993 must not constitute a precedent. The authorization had been decided upon without a recommendation

(Mr. Inomata, Japan)

by the Advisory Committee, which was of the view that commitment authorization and appropriation for that period should be subject to the action to be taken by the Security Council concerning the continuation of the mandate and that the requirement should be determined in the light of the future report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia and his performance report on the financing of UNOSOM. It was premature to specify a level of expenditure for the period beyond 30 April 1993. Third, paragraph 9 should not be interpreted as authorizing the Secretary-General to delay the submission of cost estimates for periods beyond 30 April 1993. The timely submission of a UNOSOM budget for periods beyond that date was essential for the assessment and correction of contributions and the discharge of the Organization's financial obligations to troop-contributing States. The procedures set out in the paragraph might jeopardize the integrity of the peace-keeping operations budget review process and lead to relaxation of the discipline of budgetary control.

6. His delegation was pleased that the bulk of the start-up financial requirements, including pre-implementation costs, was being met with resources from the Trust Fund in Support of United Nations Peacemaking and Peace-keeping Activities. The Japanese Government endorsed the Secretary-General's intention to use the resources of the Trust Fund for UNOSOM. To date, Japan had made cash grant contributions to the Trust Fund of $7.5 million and was in a position to make further contributions. It expected the Secretary-General to continue to make active use of the Trust Fund for start-up operations and appealed to Member States to make voluntary contributions to it.

7. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that the United States strongly supported the operation in Somalia and was pleased to join in the consensus on the draft resolution. Its support of the financing scheme set out in paragraph 7 was without prejudice to the United States position on adjustments to the special scale of assessment for peace-keeping operations, aspects of which would be addressed later in the session.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.